

complex world | CLEAR SOLUTIONS\*



## Hazard Mitigation Plan 2015 Update



## What is Hazard Mitigation?

#### "Mitigation":

Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event

or...

Any action taken to reduce future disaster losses





#### The Problem

- FEMA (the Federal Government) and States often pay recovery costs related to recurring disasters in the same area
- Communities are not sustainable if they are vulnerable to crippling losses when the inevitable occurs
  - "Building in the floodplain is like pitching your tent on the highway when no cars are coming"
- Mitigation is how we break the cycle of loss; it is a wise investment in the future of communities



#### **Breaking the Cycle**

- According to a study by the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (part of the National Institute of Building Sciences):
  - Every \$1 paid toward mitigation saves an average of \$4 in future disaster-related costs





## **The Maui County Plan and Update**

- This is the second update of the Maui County HMP
- The last Plan was approved by FEMA in 2010
- By regulation, local HMPs must be formally updated, approved by FEMA, and adopted by jurisdictions every 5 years
- Maintains our eligibility for federal mitigation grant funding
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant Program



## **The Maui County Plan and Update**

- Hazard Mitigation Plans must be:
  - Implemented on an ongoing basis (projects)
  - Revised Annually
  - Resubmitted for approval every five years
- Second plan update process is nearing completion:
  - Draft Plan Update Released June 24, 2015
    - Maui County Civil Defense Website:
       <a href="http://www.co.maui.hi.us/index.aspx?NID=1832">http://www.co.maui.hi.us/index.aspx?NID=1832</a>
    - To provide comments please email: <a href="mailto:civildefense@mauicounty.gov">civildefense@mauicounty.gov</a>
  - Comments due by July 23, 2015



## Why is Updating the Plan Important?

- HMPs are intended to guide and direct risk-reduction activities – thus they need to stay relevant.
- Our exposure and vulnerability to hazard risk continually changes:
  - As the natural environment (or human impacts on nature) change
  - As human actions increase or decrease vulnerability
  - As our capabilities to manage risk change (knowledge about risk, funding, etc.)
- How we propose to continue to manage hazard risk at the county, local and personal levels continually needs to be monitored, assessed and adjusted.
- Mitigation Strategies (projects, initiatives, etc.) need to address our risk as we now know it.

#### **HMP 2015 Update Process**

- Organize Resources
- Assess the Risk
- Review and Update the HMP
- Develop Procedures for Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Update
- State of Hawaii/FEMA Region IX Approval
- Adopt the Plan

- Engage a Wide Range of "Stakeholders"
  - Federal, State, and Local Agencies
  - Business and Civic Groups
  - Academic Institutions
  - The Public



#### **2015 Hazards of Concern**

#### Natural Hazards of Concern

- Coastal Erosion
- Dam and Reservoir Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood
- High Surf
- High Wind Storm

- Landslide, Debris Flow and Rockfalls
- Tropical Cyclone
- Tsunami
- Volcanic Hazards
- Wildfire



#### What Has Changed Since 2010?

- Updated hazard and vulnerability data to reflect recent events, new data, studies, reports, etc.
- Updated NFIP data (new flood maps, latest information on Repetitive Loss Properties, etc.)
- Updated to reflect changes in new development in hazard prone areas
- Identified the status of the 2010 actions:
  - Completed?
  - Still Relevant?
  - Carried over to 2015 HMP (why or why not?)



#### What Has Changed Since 2010?

- Updated Goals and Objectives
- Updated and expanded mitigation strategies

   (initiative projects) to ensure a robust strategy for reducing risk in Maui County
- Identified lead coordinating agencies and support agencies for each project
- Identified potential funding sources for each project
- Updated plan implementation and maintenance strategy for the next five year cycle



#### **Additional Items Considered in Update?**

- Climate Change and its impacts on each identified hazard of concern
- HAZUS-MH Level 2
  - HAZUS is a software package which estimates damages from certain hazard events. Level 1 uses nationwide data primarily from the Census. Level 2 allows for the use of particular parcel data, and therefore provides improved damage estimates



#### **Next Steps**

- Comments on the Draft Update due 7/23/15
- Submittal of a Revised Draft to State and FEMA
- State and FEMA deem plan "Approvable Pending Adoption"
- Maui County will pass a resolution to formally adopt the plan and commit to implementing the mitigation initiatives and projects within it
- When FEMA receives the adoption resolution, the plan is considered to be approved and "in place" for Maui County



complex world | CLEAR SOLUTIONS\*

# **Anna Foust Emergency Management Officer County of Maui Civil Defense Agency** Email: civildefense@mauicounty.gov